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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Group for
National Security Agency Scientific Advisory Board Affairs
held 5 December 1955**

1. A meeting of the Executive Group for National Security Agency Scientific Advisory Board Affairs was held at 1400 on 5 December 1955 in Room 17-131, NSS.

2. Those present at the meeting were:

a. Members:

Dr. S. Kullback, Executive Secretary
Brigadier General W. M. Burgess, USAF
Colonel K. I. Davis, USA
Captain J. S. Holtwick, USN
Captain A. Enderlin, USN
Mr. P. E. Neff

b. NSA Scientific Advisory Board member:

Mr. William F. Friedman

c. Observer:

Dr. H. H. Campaigne

3. The Executive Secretary opened the meeting by suggesting that the Group consider preparation of an agenda for the next NSASAB meeting. He considered the first item of business would be the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, which was held 6-7 April 1955. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Executive Secretary would send the tentative minutes to Mr. McPherson, Chairman of the Board, for his approval so that the minutes can be prepared for circulation to the Board members with the agenda.

4. Mr. Friedman asked if there was any unfinished Board business from the last meeting. Dr. Kullback replied that there was one question which General Canine had raised at the last meeting: He requested the Board to consider the desirability of setting up a separate, or captive organization, as an adjunct to the Agency. The Group discussed Dr. Baker's proposal* in this connection and the action which had been taken by the Agency. It was

*The transcript of the proceedings of the meeting on 6 April do not reflect the manner or time in which this proposal was made. It is believed that it was as a result of a discussion on this date General Canine that Dr. Baker was encouraged to make a specific proposal contemplating the establishment and operation of such an organization by General Electric.

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(Note by the Secretary)

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agreed that a report by the Board as a result of its consideration of this project at the last meeting and of its discussion of Dr. Baker's proposal at the forthcoming meeting could be another item for the agenda.

5. Dr. Kullback told the group that Mr. McPherson had been down the previous week and suggested the middle of February as a possible time to schedule the next Board meeting. He also had suggested several items which should be put on the agenda:

a. The Board members would like to have a summary of the PHASE I, II and III documents on mechanization, and sufficient time scheduled to read these.

b. A review of the Robertson Report and its recommendations. The members of the Group mentioned other reports which have been written by outside ad hoc investigative bodies, such as the Clark and Killian Committees, and it was the feeling of the Group that the Board should be advised of the existence of these reports and of their broad outlines.

A discussion of the actions taken as a result of the Robertson Report recommendations followed, and some of the actions taken were indicated, such as (1) that taken in regard to the recommendation made by Professor Wilks, which resulted in the special study by NSA-34 and NSA-90; (2) hiring a psychologist for the Agency; and (3) initiating steps to obtain certain legislative actions which would be of material assistance to the Director in his administration and development of the Agency.

In reply to a suggestion that someone review the Robertson Report to determine what concrete actions have taken place as a result of the recommendations, Captain Holtwick suggested that Captain McDonald would be the most qualified person to make such a study.

6. Mr. Friedman reported on a program which had been discussed sometime ago to set up a special project and mechanics for a series of Exchange Research Fellowships to be financed by the U.S. from Mutual Weapons Development Program funds. The intent of the program would be to try to get persons formerly in the business, both here and at GCHQ, who are now back at their universities or private companies, to devote one or two years' study and concentration on one or more of the unresolved high-level problems. He said that when Mr. Quarles was Assistant Secretary of Defense for R and D he had indicated his approval of such a project when told about it and had asked that he be given some estimate of the amount which should be set aside from MWDP funds for such a project. Mr. Friedman therefore felt we should be able to obtain the necessary funds; the real problem was if we could get qualified people interested in the project. Mr. Jones, Director, GCHQ, had also informally indicated to Mr. Friedman his interest in such a program and would probably cooperate to whatever extent was feasible, short of providing funds therefor.

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Establishing this project was discussed and all members agreed that the big obstacle to getting it started would be trying to get people interested in devoting one or two years' time to such a study. It was suggested that perhaps NSASAB would be one group that could support and push the program and perhaps suggest names of candidates.

7. Dr. Kullback reported that he had talked to General Canine about the plans for setting up a Board meeting and General Canine had added one specific item to the agenda:

A general discussion of recent developments in communications as they affect NSA, and general NSA problems of communication.

After a brief discussion of recent developments in the communications field, Dr. Kullback asked Captain Enderlin if he would look into the whole problem of telecommunications as they affect NSA and be prepared to handle this item of the agenda.

8. Dr. Kullback suggested that another item for the agenda would be a report on the Agency progress and programs. This would be a type of annual report and would require reports from PROD, COMSEC, R/D and Staff. Captain Holtwick will monitor the preparation of the Staff portion of this report.

9. Mr. Friedman asked if Mr. McPherson had mentioned the desirability of a report on the activities of each of the Board Panels as a possible item of the agenda. The Group discussed how active each of the Panels had been and it was felt that while they have not had formal meetings there have been quite a lot of contacts with individual members of the Panels. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to ask the Chairman of each of the Panels to prepare a report summarizing panel activities for the previous year. (Mr. McPherson will be asked about the advisability of this).

10. Dr. Kullback said that another item which Mr. McPherson wanted added to the agenda was a report on equipment acquisitions. R/D will have the responsibility for preparing this report.

11. After a brief discussion, it was proposed that the NSASAB meeting be tentatively scheduled for 15, 16 and 17 February. If this date is suitable to the majority of the Board members, the agenda can be prepared and forwarded to the members approximately a month before the meeting.

A meeting of the Executive Group to finalize the agenda was scheduled for 9 January at 1400 to be held in Room 17-131, NSS.

12. In discussing the item regarding the progress made by the Agency, Dr. Kullback said that he believed General Canine would like us to get the Board's reaction to the "Long Range Estimate". The mechanics of how to make

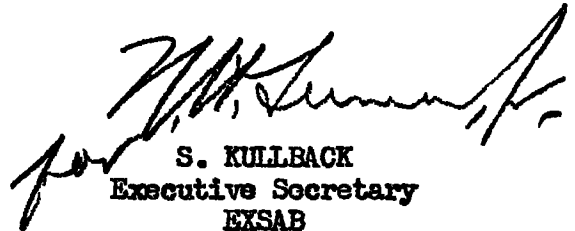
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this report available to the Board members, due to its classification, was discussed and it was decided that the item should be tentatively put down as an item for the agenda and it would be decided at the next meeting of the Group how best to handle it.

13. Mr. Friedman said that he thought a matter of interest to the Board members would be his nomination to membership and suggested that a formal note be written to the members. Dr. Kullback agreed that this would be done. Mr. Friedman asked if there were any other recommendations for changes in Board membership. There was some discussion regarding the present status of Dr. von Neumann and Mr. Quarles. Recommendations for changes in Board membership will be an item of the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 1525.


S. KULLBACK
Executive Secretary
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